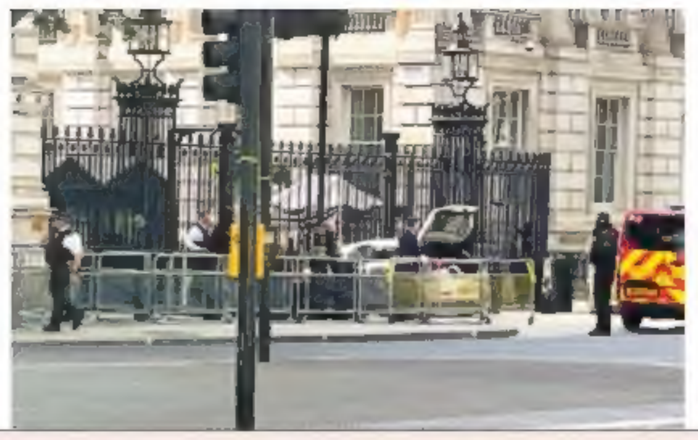
THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • FRIDAY • MAY 26, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 42 • LATE CITY EDITION



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CAR RAMS INTO GATES OF 10 DOWNING ST, ONE ARRESTED FOR CRIMINAL DAMAGE

One person was arrested on Thursday after a car crashed into the gates of the office-residence of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, police said

SUNAK WAS INSIDE BUILDING DURING THE CRASH

Images on social media showed a white passenger car with its boot open slammed into the gates of Downing Street, which is protected with a solid double-barrel black iron gate. The incident happened around 4 pm local time. According to media reports, Sunak was in the building when the car crashed into the front gates and left the premises soon after the incident

HEAVILY GUARDED, AIRLINE-STYLE SECURITY

- Downing Street is heavily protected. The street was once fully opened to the public but has been closed to vehicles since the 1970s. Security was further tightened after a mortar attack by Irish Republican Army in 1991
- Access to the premises is limited. Visitors must pass through two checkpoints, including airline-style security, overseen by armed officers

Police

SAID THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF ANY INJURIES AND INQUIRIES ARE ON

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Shah calls for Manipur peace

Says he'll visit soon; Cong raps him for going to Guwahati but not the neighbouring state

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

UNION home minister Amit Shah on Thursday sought to reach out to Manipur that is witnessing a fresh bout of ethnic violence, saying he would soon visit the state for three days and talk to "all brothers and sisters" to re-establish peace and tranquility.

"Some clashes occurred in Manipur due to a court judgment. People belonging to both groups (Meiteis and Kukis) have to first decide on maintaining peace," Shah said in Guwahati. He was speaking at a programme organised to lay the foundation stone for a National Forensic Science University in Assam.

Shah assured that everyone would get justice, adding the perpetrators of the violence would not be spared. He appealed to people to keep their faith and trust in the Narendra Modi government. "We will peacefully resolve the conflict. I will soon visit Manipur for three days and talk to all brothers and sisters for establishing peace," Shah assured.

Earlier in the day, the Congress criticised him for not visiting Manipur. "The Union Home Minister goes all the way to Guwahati today, but does not deem it fit to visit Imphal when Manipur has been burning for 22 days. This is the same Union Home Minister who held 16 rallies and 15 road shows in Karnataka, but cannot find time for the people of Manipur who are suffering a lot due to the ideology and politics of the so-called Double Engine Sarkar," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

At least 71 people lost their lives, over 1,700 houses were burned down and 35,000 displaced in the violence which broke out on May 3 after a Tribal Solidarity March against a proposal to include Meiteis — the state's largest community — in the Scheduled Tribes list.

Amid the violence, prices of essentials have gone through the roof. Cooking gas and petrol are not readily available in the ongoing curfew and black marketeers are having a field day.

Shyamkumar Ayekpak, a resident of Imphal valley, said people were struggling to buy essential items. "Nothing is readily available. As the petrol pumps are closed, people, who require petrol for emergency services, including taking patients to a hospital, are forced to buy it at ₹250 a litre from the black market," Ayekpak said.

Saroj Singh, another resident, said the prices of most rice varieties have shot up by 50%. "As shops are closed, people are not getting anything. They have been forced to buy essentials from the black market," Singh said.

Subir Das, a man from Assam who is serving as the manager of a hotel in Imphal, said, the price of every single item has shot up. "A plate of broiler egg now costs ₹260-300. Before the violence, it was ₹200. The price of broiler chicken (whole) is up from ₹200 a kg to ₹300 a kg. Potato was ₹20 a kg. It is now ₹40 a kg. Onion has gone up from ₹30 a kg to ₹50-60 a kg," Das said.

Closed shops at a market in Manipur's capital Imphal on Thursday | PTI

LPG refill costs ₹2,000, a litre of petrol ₹250

In the violence-hit Manipur, the price of an LPG cylinder is anything beyond ₹2,000 while petrol costs ₹250 a litre on the black market. The prices of other essential items like potato, onion and other vegetables, too, have gone up manifold

24 MLAs to take oath as ministers tomorrow, tentative list ready

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

TWENTY-FOUR more MLAs will take oath as ministers in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's cabinet at a swearing-in ceremony to be held at Raj Bhavan on Saturday at 11.45 am. Karnataka governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot will administer the oath to the new ministers and his office has already been approached, CMO sources confirmed to *TNIE*.

Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and eight Cabinet-ranked ministers took oath at Kanteerava Stadium on May 20, leaving vacancies for 24 more to be added in the 34-member strong Council of Ministers. There is a guideline that the Council of Ministers should not exceed 15% of the total number of MLAs in the 224-member Assembly.

The distribution of portfolios is likely to be done soon after the swear-in ceremony. No minister will get more than one portfolio, while the rest of them will be with the Chief Minister, according to sources privy to the meetings in New Delhi on Thursday.

As pressure mounted on the Congress party high command with over 40 aspirants lobbying at various levels at the national capital, it was left with no other option than filling up all vacancies. Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar landed in New Delhi on Wednesday and held several rounds of talks with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and AICC general secretaries Randeep Singh Surjewala and KC Venugopal to finalise the names. Tentative lists have been drawn, subject to change on Friday.

On Thursday night, they huddled in the party's war room and arrived at a decision to pick the 24 MLAs. Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar are expected to meet former AICC presidents Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi on Friday.

In the meetings on Thursday, Shivakumar was against those who had not contributed to the party during Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. However, this did go down well with the party high command, and in the interest of the party — especially with the 2024 LS polls — a decision was taken to tentatively shortlist the names (**see box on P4**), according to sources. **P4**

Gowda to attend Parl building inauguration

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru/Lucknow

ALTHOUGH 20-odd opposition parties have decided to boycott the inauguration of the Parliament building in New Delhi on May 28, former prime minister and JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda has decided to attend the event, which will also be attended by leaders of some other non-BJP parties, including Shiromani Akali Dal, Yuvajana Shramika Rythu Congress Party of Jagan Mohan Reddy, Telugu Desam Party, AIADMK and Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal.

While the attendance of Gowda and other non-BJP leaders goes against the opposition boycott, the inauguration by PM Narendra Modi has received support from Bahujan Samaj Party chief and former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Mayawati, who has termed the stand of boycotting the event as "unfair" and congratulated Modi.

MORE: P7, CONTINUED ON: P9

Pilot as PCC chief, Jat DyCM is Raj formula

SHAHID FARIDI @New Delhi

THE Congress high command has reportedly given shape to a plan that allows warring Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot in Rajasthan to bury the hatchet in view of the forthcoming Assembly elections.

The plan entails giving the post of Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president to Pilot. The decision has been conveyed to Chief Minister Gehlot.

The CM is said to have expressed some unease. The current PCC chief, Govind Singh Dotasra, is a Jat. Gehlot says Dotasra's presence as PCC chief will draw the Jats towards the Congress because the BJP recently removed Satish Poonia, also a Jat, as its state president. If Dotasra too goes, the Congress may fail to tap the Jat anger with the BJP, Gehlot is said to have reasoned.

Congress insiders say the party has told Gehlot he can appoint a Jat as the state's deputy CM to take care of the community's sentiments. The party has given Gehlot a free hand to choose a Jat leader as his deputy. Dotasra, a Gehlot loyalist, is the front-runner for the post.

According to sources, Pilot, who has been on the warpath against Gehlot, has agreed to bury the hatchet and accept the post of PCC chief until the upcoming Assembly elections.

Rajasthan's elections are due in December, and the Congress central leadership is keen to resolve the differences between its two top leaders in the state. Party leaders feel like in Karnataka, where Congress managed to win the election by bringing the two top leaders Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar together, it is important to get Gehlot and Pilot on the same page to make a serious bid to retain power in Rajasthan.

Sources said talks with both leaders have been going on for some time, and the groundwork for an agreement has been done. Party president Mallikarjun Kharge will soon meet the two leaders after which the peace formula will be announced.

Among Pilot's demands is compensation for students affected by a paper leak and restructuring of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission.

Panel on Raje graft

As sought by Pilot, panel is likely to be set up to probe charges of alleged corruption by the previous Vasundhara Raje government of the BJP

EXPRESS READ

Sood takes over as new CBI Director

New Delhi: Senior IPS officer and former Karnataka DG&IGP Praveen Sood took over as CBI director on Thursday. He will serve in the post for two years, officials said. On his last working day, outgoing director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal handed Sood the charge of the agency at its headquarters here.

Moral policing: Group threatens boy, girl

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chikkaballapur

A girl and a boy from different faiths were reportedly threatened by a group of youths at a chat centre in the city on Wednesday evening. The video of the moral policing incident has gone viral.

Chikkaballapur Superintendent of Police DL Nagesh told *The New Indian Express* that a case has been registered after the girl filed a complaint. The police have launched an inquiry and are examining the CCTV footage to identify the culprits.

Meanwhile, sources said the girl and the boy, who were classmates, were having snacks at the chat centre when the group barged in and threatened them with dire consequences. They warned the boy to keep away from the girl.

The sources said that an argument broke out between the youths and the girl when she and her friend came out of the chat centre. They attempted to assault the boy for ignoring their warning.

Nagesh said the preliminary investigation revealed that the boy is from Siddlaghatta and pursuing his studies in Chikkaballapur.

The girl, who was his classmate, discontinued her studies and is now working in Bengaluru.

MiG-29K lands aboard INS Vikrant at night

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

IN its efforts to make the country's indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant fully operational, the Indian Navy crossed another milestone by undertaking maiden night landing of MiG-29K onboard the carrier. "This challenging night landing trial demonstrates the resolve, skill and professionalism of the Vikrant crew and the naval pilots" said the Indian Navy on Thursday.

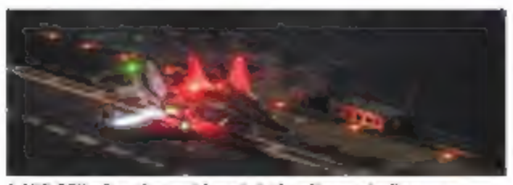
Sources said the whole process of establishing the compatibility between the aircraft and the ship along with the night landing within one year makes it a significant achievement.

The INS Vikrant, the first indigenous aircraft carrier and the most complex warship ever built in the country by the Cochin Shipyard Ltd, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on September last year.

The carrier is currently undergoing air certification and flight integration trials with rotary wing and fixed-wing aircraft for reaching the combat-ready state at the earliest.

The maiden day landing of MiG-29K and the indigenous LCA (Navy) was achieved on February 6, 23. Since then, day-and-night landing trials of all helicopters of the Navy have progressed. This night landing on Wednesday is in continuation with the current impetus on the aviation trials.

"This accomplishment within three months of maiden day landing demonstrates the resolve, skill and professionalism of the Navy, Vikrant crew and Naval pilots," said sources.



A MiG-29K after the maiden night landing on indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant on Wednesday | NAVY

CHALLENGING TASK: NAVY

This challenging night landing trial demonstrates the resolve, skill and professionalism of the Vikrant crew and the naval pilots

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